

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 013417 TOSEC 010050  
ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00  
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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JHTRATTNER:PAM  
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S/S-O: JETHYDEN  
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O 180231Z JAN 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 013417 TOSEC 010050

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TRATTNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, JANUARY 17,  
1978

NO. 5

1. SPOKESMAN (TRATTNER) READ INTO RECORD ANNOUNCEMENTS  
EARLIER IN DAY IN ANKARA AND ATHENS OF SECRETARY'S UPCOMING  
VISITS. HE ADDED THAT SECRETARY IS EXPECTED TO SEE BOTH  
GREEK PRIME AND FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND WILL STAY OVERNIGHT  
JANUARY 21 IN ATHENS, WITH EXPECTED RETURN TO WASHINGTON  
SUNDAY. HE DID NOT EXCLUDE A RETURN TO JERUSALEM TALKS,  
BUT DID NOT SEE ANY PRESENT PLANS FOR IT. HE SAID SECRE-  
TARY WILL MAKE DAY STOP IN CAIRO FRIDAY, BUT HAD NO INFOR-  
MATION THAT ANY STOP IS PLANNED IN JORDAN.

2. ON SUBJECT OF GREEK AND TURKISH VISITS, SPOKESMAN RE-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 013417 TOSEC 010050

JECTED SUGGESTION SECRETARY IS MAKING THEM SPECIFICALLY IN  
ANTICIPATION OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ON CYPRUS. HE SAID ONLY  
RESULTS SOUGHT OR EXPECTED IS CLOSER AND BETTER UNDERSTAND-  
ING OF EACH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON VARIOUS BILATERAL AND  
MULTILATERAL MATTERS, INCLUDING PROBLEMS IN EASTERN MEDI-  
TERRANEAN. SECRETARY, HE SAID, IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS  
PRESENCE IN AREA AND OF INVITATIONS FROM BOTH GOVERNMENTS

TO MEET WITH THEM, AND POINTED OUT THAT NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS JUST TAKEN OFFICE, AND THAT BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY HAVE NEW FOREIGN MINISTERS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS, SPOKESMAN TRACED PRESENT STATUS OF BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH DCA'S. WHILE REFUSING MAKE SPECIFIC OR FORMAL LINK BETWEEN THEM AND PROGRESS ON CYPRUS, HE DID NOT THINK ONE CAN GET AWAY FROM FACT THAT PROGRESS ON CYPRUS WOULD ENHANCE CHANCES OF EARLY EFFECTIVENESS OF BOTH AGREEMENTS. HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY SECRETARY WOULD DISCUSS AEGEAN OIL EXPLORATION ISSUE DURING HIS VISITS, BUT AGAIN REFUSED MAKE LINK BETWEEN THIS AND PROGRESS ON DCA'S. HE SAID U.S. IS DEFINITELY TRYING TO ENCOURAGE RESUMPTION OF CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS; IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID U.S. HAS BEEN VERY ENCOURAGED BY INDICATIONS NEW ANKARA GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO WORK FOR QUICK SOLUTION OF CYPRUS PROBLEM, AND WELCOMED NEW PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENTS THAT HE WILL PRESS FOR EARLY RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER UN AUSPICES AND TAKE INITIATIVE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND TERRITORIAL ASPECTS OF CYPRUS PROBLEM. HE SAID REPORTS INDICATE ECEVIT AND WALDHEIM HAD VERY POSITIVE DISCUSSION ON CYPRUS. HE ADDED WE ARE EQUALLY ENCOURAGED THAT CARAMANLIS HAS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF ECEVIT'S STATEMENTS ABOUT RELATIONS WITH GREECE, AND ABOUT CYPRUS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 013417 TOSEC 010050

4. FINALLY ON THIS SUBJECT, SPOKESMAN SAID SECRETARY'S VISIT TO TURKEY IS IN NO WAY DESIGNED AS COMPETITION WITH WALDHEIM-ECEVIT TALKS AND EFFORTS IN THAT PARTICULAR CONNECTION TO RESOLVE CYPRUS PROBLEM. THERE IS NO AMERICAN "PLAN" FOR CYPRUS.

5. ON REPORT IN BEIRUT MAGAZINE THAT SAUDIS TOLD PRESIDENT TWO WEEKS AGO THEY WOULD BE WILLING "TO BUY THE WEST BANK" AND "GIVE U.S. ALL THE OIL IT NEEDS" IF WE CAN BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT, SPOKESMAN SAID HE PERSONALLY SAW NO REPEAT NO VALIDITY IN STORY BUT THAT, IN ANY CASE, WE WERE NOT ABLE TO GET INTO SUBSTANCE OF PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATIONS WITH SAUDIS.

6. QUESTIONED ON STORY (IN WASHPOST) THAT STATE AND ACDA HAD TRIED SUPPRESS CIA REPORT ALLEGEDLY ASSERTING THAT SOVIETS ARE BIGGER ARMS EXPORTERS THAN WE, SPOKESMAN SAID CALCULATING RESPECTIVE EXPORT FIGURES IS COMPLICATED MATTER, LIKE TRYING TO COMPARE U.S. AND SOVIET DEFENSE BUDGETS. THERE ARE DIFFERENTWAYS OF CALCULATING THAT SHOW SOVIET TOTALS BOTH GREATER AND SMALLER THAN OURS. NONE OF THIS ELIMINATES FACT THAT WE ARE THE WORLD'S LARGEST SELLER OF

ARMS AND ACCEPTANCE OF THAT RESPONSIBILITY MEANS WE ARE PREPARED TO ACT AS PRESIDENT HAS LAID OUT IN HIS CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER POLICY. NO SPECIFIC COMMENT ON WHETHER STATE TRIED TO SUPPRESS CIA STUDY.

7. ETHIOPIA AND SOVIET AIRLIFT: REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS BRIEFING, SPOKESMAN SAID (1) OUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT THOSE TWO-THIRDS OF AIRLIFT WHICH WE HAD SAID WERE MEDIUM AND HEAVY TRANSPORT PLANES BELONG TO SOVIET AIR FORCE; (2) DEFINITION OF WHAT IS A DEFENSIVE ARM AND WHAT IS AN OFFENSIVE ARM (IN CONNECTION WITH SOMALIA) REQUIRES ANALYSIS OF EACH PARTICULAR WEAPON AND HOW AND WHERE IT IS TO BE USED; (3) WE DO NOT WISH TO SPECULATE ON POSSIBLE TOTAL PASSENGER CAPACITY OF CARGO AND PASSENGER UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 013417 TOSEC 010050

AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN SOVIET AIRLIFT.

8. SOMALIA: ASKED IF SOMALIA GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED U.S. FOR MILITARY AID, SPOKESMAN SAID SOMALI MINISTER OF INFORMATION HAD CALLED IN OUR CHARGE AND OTHER WESTERN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES JANUARY 16 AND REPEATED SAME CALL HE HAD MADE EARLIER IN PRESS STATEMENT FOR "WORLD AT LARGE AND ESPECIALLY FRIENDLY AND PEACELOVING COUNTRIES TO FULLY SUPPORT" SOMALIA "TO QUELL SINISTER INVASION" AGAINST IT. SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT, JUST AS WE ADHERE TO POLICY OF NOT PROVIDING ARMS TO EITHER SIDE IN CONFLICT, WE ALSO WILL NOT SEND TROOPS.

9. ANSWERING FURTHER QUESTIONS, SPOKESMAN SAID WE ABSOLUTELY SUPPORT OAU EFFORTS TO MEDIATE CONFLICT AND WOULD SUPPORT ANY OTHER EFFORT, INCLUDING THOSE MADE AT U.N., TO DO THE SAME, AS PRESIDENT SAID RECENTLY. PRIMARY AND FIRST FOCUS, HOWEVER, WOULD BE ON EFFORTS OF OAU AND THAT IS WHAT WE IN FIRST INSTANCE ARE SUPPORTING.

10. ASKED (BY KALB) IF WE SEE SOVIET AND CUBAN EFFORT IN ETHIOPIA AS CHALLENGE TO U.S., SPOKESMAN SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO GET INTO CONFRONTATION TERMS. OBVIOUSLY, FROM WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR A LONG TIME, IT IS AN OBJECT OF CONCERN, AND ONE CAN EXTRAPOLATE FROM THERE, WITHOUT WANTING TO OVERSTATE IT, THAT IT IS AN ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. WE HAVE MADE POINT OF STATING OUR BELIEF THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS SUCH AS THIS CANNOT BE SOLVED BY INTERVENTION FROM OUTSIDE. IF THERE IS A CHALLENGE TO U.S. HERE, IT IS TO AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN POLICY TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT SOLUTION TO CONFLICT.

11. INTERNAL EXILE OF 12 CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 013417 TOSEC 010050

CHILE: TODMAN SAW CHILEAN AMBASSADOR JANUARY 16 AND  
EXPRESSED OUR DEEP CONCERN. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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